

Again, I want to thank the Members of Congress who are here. It is now my honor to sign this good bill into law.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:09 a.m. in Room 450 in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, S. 544, approved July 29, was assigned Public Law No. 109-41.

Statement on Congressional Action on the “Energy Policy Act of 2005”

July 29, 2005

I applaud the Congress for today’s passage of an energy bill that will help secure our energy future and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. The energy bill will increase conservation and efficiency, diversify our energy supply with alternative and renewable sources, expand domestic energy production in environmentally sensitive ways, and modernize our electricity infrastructure. Four years ago, I called for a national energy plan to address our Nation’s energy needs for the 21st century. The bipartisan energy bill passed today will give America a comprehensive national energy strategy for the first time in more than a decade and is critically important to our long-term national and economic security. I look forward to signing it into law.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President’s public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

July 23

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Also in the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to express his condolences on the recent terrorist attacks in Sharm el-Sheikh.

July 24

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with cyclist Lance Armstrong to congratulate him on winning a record seventh straight Tour de France.

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. Later, they attended a White House tee-ball game on the South Lawn.

During the day, the President had a telephone conversation with Members of Congress to discuss energy legislation.

July 25

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he and Mrs. Bush went to the National Gallery of Art where they toured the Gilbert Stuart exhibition.

Later in the morning, the President returned to the White House. Later, in the East Room, he participated in a photo opportunity with Presidential Rank Award recipients.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President participated in a meeting with African American leaders.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jennifer L. Dorn to be U.S. Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

The President announced his intention to nominate C. Boyden Gray to be the U.S. Representative to the European Union with the Rank of Ambassador.

The President announced his intention to nominate Richard H. Jones to be Ambassador to Israel.

The President announced his intention to nominate Francis J. Ricciardone, Jr., to be Ambassador to Egypt.

The President announced his intention to nominate Darlene F. Williams to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (Policy Development and Research).

The President announced his appointment of Michele A. Davis as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications and Global Outreach.